

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 11, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 21 - 23 and 66-69 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 10, 11, 20 and 57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in their present form at least for the reasons discussed below. Claims 1-9, 12-19, 21-54 and 59-73 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 21-23 and 66-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

As discussed above, claims 21-23 and 66-69 are amended to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 12-19, 24-56, 58-65 and 70-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,621,793 to Widegren et al. (Widegren). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 upon which claims 2-22, 69 and 70 depend, recites a method of providing services to user equipment in a communications network including a database storing subscriber information regarding users of the user equipment obtaining the services, a policy enforcement entity to which the user equipment is

coupled to obtain connection to sessions and a policy decision entity which is coupled to the policy enforcement entity and to the database which determines policy governing the providing of the services from at least one network or server coupled to the policy decision entity. The method includes providing from the database to the policy decision entity the subscriber information regarding permitted conditions for the users to obtain the services. The method further includes providing service provider information from the at least one network or server regarding the services offered to the user equipment, which is utilized by the policy decision entity. Further, the method includes forming policy rules at the policy decision entity based upon the subscriber information and the service information. In the method, a requesting user equipment transmits a request for a session to the communications network which is processed by the policy decision entity in accordance with the policy rules to determine if a session is to be allowed and if the session is allowed determining characteristics of the service to be provided to the requesting user equipment and the policy enforcement entity enforces at least one characteristic of an allowed session upon the communication network to insure that the allowed session obtained by the requesting user equipment has the at least one characteristic of the allowed session.

Claim 24 from which claims 25-33 and 71 depend, recites a system for controlling the providing of service to user equipment. The system includes a communication system including a database storing subscriber information regarding subscription of users of the user equipment to obtain sessions of the services, a policy enforcement entity to which the user equipment is coupled to obtain the services, and a policy decision entity which is coupled to the policy enforcement entity and to the

database. The system further includes and at least one network or server which is coupled to the policy decision entity that provides the sessions of the services to the user equipment through the policy decision entity. In the system, the at least one network or server provides service information to the policy decision entity regarding the sessions of the services which are offered to the user equipment, the database provides the stored subscriber information to the policy decision entity regarding subscription of the users of the user equipment to obtain the sessions of the services provided by the at least one network or server, the policy decision entity formulates policy rules defining characteristics of the sessions which may be obtained by users of the user equipment from the at least one network or server in response to the subscriber information and the service information and the policy enforcement entity in response to the policy rules enforces the obtaining of the sessions of the services by the user equipment through the wireless system in accordance with at least one characteristic.

Claim 36 from which claims 37-47 and 72 depend, recites a system for controlling the providing of services to user equipment comprising a communication system including a policy enforcement entity to which the user equipment is coupled to obtain the services, and a policy decision entity which is coupled to the policy enforcement entity and to a database, and at least one network or server which is coupled to the policy decision entity that provides the services to the user equipment through the policy enforcement entity, wherein an entity includes a database in the communication system which stores subscriber information regarding subscription of users of the user equipment to obtain the services from the at least one network or

server. In the entity, the at least one network or server provides service information to the policy decision entity regarding the services which are offered to the user equipment, the database provides the stored subscriber information to the policy decision entity regarding subscription of the users of the user equipment to obtain the services provided by the at least one network or server, the policy decision entity formulates policy rules defining characteristics of the services which may be obtained by users of the user equipment from the at least one network or server in response to the subscriber information and the service information and the policy enforcement entity in response to the policy rules enforces the obtaining of the services by the user equipment through the system in accordance with at least one characteristic.

Claim 48, from which claims 49-68 and 73 depend, recites a method in which a communications system includes a policy enforcement entity to which user equipment is coupled to obtain connection to services and a policy decision entity which is coupled to the policy enforcement entity which determines policy governing the providing of the services from at least one network or server coupled to the policy decision entity, wherein service information is provided from at least one network or server, regarding service offered by the at least one network or server to the user equipment, which is utilized by the policy decision entity to formulate, policy rules based upon subscriber information and the service information, and a requesting user equipment transmits a request for a service with at least one of the at least one network or server which is processed in accordance with the policy rules to determine if the service is to be allowed and if the service is allowed determining characteristics of the service to be provided to the requesting user equipment and the policy

enforcement entity enforces at least one characteristic of an allowed service upon the communication network to insure that the allowed service obtained by the requesting user equipment has the at least one characteristic of the allowed service. The method includes providing from a database to the policy decision entity the subscriber information regarding permitted conditions for the user equipment to obtain the service which is used by the policy decision entity as part of the formulation of the policy rules. The method further includes the policy entity enforces providing the service to the user equipment in accordance with the at least one characteristic of the allowed service.

Widegren discloses a method of filtering and gating data flow in a QoS connection between a remote host and user equipment in a packet data network using policy control mechanisms. Widegren discloses that the method includes a remote host, or the user equipment, initiating an application in an application server, such as an SIP proxy server. See column 11 lines 43-52. Widegren discloses that application server support in the network may be provided by the proxy server, or any type of IP based application support, where the IP based application is controlled by end-to-end signaling. See column 14 lines 38-41.

The Office Action alleges that Widegren discloses “providing from the database (application server) to the policy decision entity (PCF) the subscriber information” It is respectfully submitted that Widegren fails to disclose or suggest this feature. In fact, Widegren does not even mention that the application server (alleged database) stores or provides subscriber information. Instead, Widegren discloses that the application server stores applications as discussed above.

Further, Widegren fails to even mention that the application server (alleged database) stores or forwards the “subscribed QoS profile” (alleged subscriber information) as alleged in the Office Action.

The Office Action states that Widegren discloses providing service provider information (IP BS Manager) from the at least one network or server (local SIP proxy server) regarding the services (bearer level) offered to the user equipment, which is utilized by the policy decision entity. The Office Action cites col. 13 lines 55-59. It is respectfully submitted that Widegren fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Instead, Widegren, at column 9 lines 6-7, discloses that the IP BS Manager (alleged providing service provider information), manages IP bearer service. Further, Widegren discloses that when the GGSN receives information about the traffic usage for this bearer, the IP BS Manager may authorize the usage of the bearer. See column 14 lines 10-12. Thus, there is no disclosure in Widegren that the IP BS Manager (alleged providing service provider information) provides any information from the local SIP proxy server (alleged at least one network or server), let alone providing service provider information as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 24, 36 and 48. Still further, the cited portions of Widegren (col. 13 lines 55-59) merely discloses the mapping functions of the GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node), in regards to the PCF (policy control function) associated with the bearer request.

It is respectfully submitted that since claim 2-9, 12-19, 23-35, 37-47, 49-56, 58-65 and 70-73 depend from claim 1, 24, 36 and 48 respectively, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1, 24, 36 and 48.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, 20 and 57 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that since claims 10, 11 and 20 depend from claim 1 and claim 57 depends from claim 48, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 48. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 10, 11, 20 and 57 is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David E. Brown', written over a horizontal line.

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